Inside Wallops

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NASA to Fly Historic Jamestown Artifact, Mementos on Space Shuttle

To honor early American explorers, NASA will fly four coins and a nearly 400-year-old artifact from historic Jamestown on space shuttle Atlantis during mission STS-117, currently scheduled for launch in March.

NASA Photo

The above artifact, a metal cargo tag reading "Yames Towne," was unearthed at Jamestown, the site of the first permanent English settlement in the Americas in 1607. Upon completion of the flight, it will have logged more than 4 million miles during four centuries, traveling from England to Jamestown and round trip to the International Space Station. Two sets of Jamestown commemorative coins, authorized by Congress and recently issued by the U.S. Mint, also will fly aboard Atlantis.

Virginia Secretary of Technology, Aneesh Chopra, presented the artifact and coins to NASA Langley Research Center Director, Lesa Roe, at AeroSpace Day in Richmond on Wednesday, January 31.

"This exploratory shuttle flight connects our adventurous past with the innovation and continued intellectual curiosity that guides our future as we commemorate America's 400th anniversary," Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine said. "We embrace that future by contemplating Jamestown's pivotal role as the place where our nation's defining characteristics - democracy, free enterprise, cultural diversity and the spirit of exploration - took root."

The tag, found at the bottom of a well during an archeological dig at the site of James Fort on Jamestown Island, most likely is a discarded shipping tag from a crate or a trunk arriving from England around 1611.

"This artifact clearly marks Jamestown as a destination — our nation's first 'address.' It demonstrates the development of trade patterns crucial to the survival of the colony," said William M. Kelso, director of archaeology at the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities. Kelso leads the Jamestown Rediscovery Project that has unearthed more than 1 million artifacts at the site of the first permanent English settlement in America.

"NASA is proud to be entrusted with this piece of exploration history and to participate in the commemoration of America's 400th anniversary, highlighting the next phase of America's exploration vision," said Roe. "Remembering the spirit of adventure that led to the establishment of Jamestown is appropriate as this country works toward establishing a permanent outpost on another planetary body."

Each commemorative coin set contains a $5 gold piece and a silver dollar with visual references to Jamestown's legacies.

When returned from space, NASA will present one set to Governor Kaine for display at Jamestown Settlement, a 17th century living history museum.

The second set will be displayed at the National Park Service's Historic Jamestowne Visitor Center.

NASA will return the shipping tag to Historic Jamestowne for display in its Archaearium, a new archaeological museum showcasing items unearthed during the past 13 years in excavations that include the long-lost remains of James Fort. For centuries, the fort was believed to have eroded into the James River.

For more information about the commemoration of Jamestown's 400th anniversary, visit:
http://www.americas400thanniversary.com

For more information about Historic Jamestowne, visit:

http://www.historicjamestowne.org

Wallops Director, John Campbell, (left), recently presented this quarter's Aviation Safety Council Superstar Award to Computer Sciences Corporation, project manager, John Valliant. Valliant was recognized for his hard work, dedication, and excellence in project management as aircraft surveillance officer for the recent TacSat2 Minotaur launch and as project manager for the NASA P3 aircraft Radstar and Arctic flight projects.

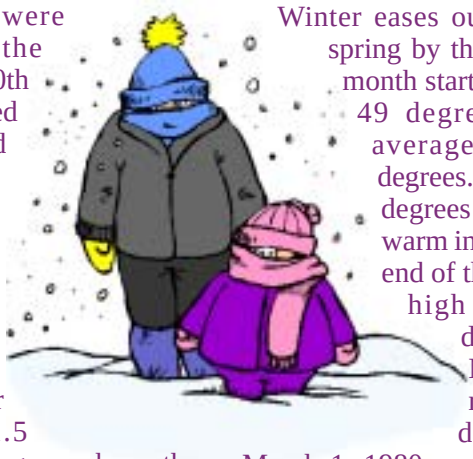
Photo by Rich Rogers

Wallops Shorts.....

John Campbell and Adena Loston, NASA Suborbital and Special Orbital Projects Directorate, participated in Virginia Aerospace Day in Richmond on January 30 and 31. The event included a reception, meetings with members of the General Assembly and a press conference with NASA Langley Research Center, Wallops Directors and the Virginia Secretary of Technology. Keith Koehler, NASA Public Affairs Office, staffed a Wallops exhibit.

January Runs From Hot to Cold by Bob Steiner, Meteorologist

January got off to a very warm start, with 14 of the first 16 days and 13 of the first 16 nights above normal temperatures. The 70 degree readings on January 6, 14 and 15 along with a reading of 67 degrees on January 13 and 16, set daily records for high temperatures. The 70 degree readings also are the highs for the month. The coldest mornings were towards the end of the month on the 26th and 30th when the mercury dipped to 18 degrees. No record lows were set or tied.



January ended on a cold note with 11 out of the last 15 days and nights showing readings below normal. The average temperature for the month was 41.5 degrees, which is 5.5 degrees above the norm for January.

The first measurable snowfall of the winter arrived at Wallops with a measurement of 1.3 inches on January 21. This is 1.65 inches below the norm of 2.95 inches usually falling on two days. The measurable liquid precipitation total for the month was a little more than two inches, which is close to one inch below average for January. The greatest 24 hour total was 0.66 inches January 7 and 8. We experienced 12 days with measurable precipitation, 10 days is normal.

Winds reached 30 mph or greater on 11 days in January. A 39 mph gust at 11:28 p.m. on January 25 was the strongest wind recorded.

Winter eases out with the onset of spring by the end of March. The month starts out with highs near 49 degrees and ends with average readings of 56 degrees. Overnight lows of 31 degrees on the first of March warm into the low 40's by the end of the month. The record high for March is 86 degrees recorded on March 13, 1990. The record low of 14 degrees occurred on March 1, 1980, and again on March 4, 1996. We can expect measurable precipitation to fall on 10 days during March with an average total of 3.84 inches. Snow will normally be measured on one day during the month giving us an average total of 0.33 inches. The wettest March on record was in 1994 when 9.47 inches were recorded.

As we look forward to warmer weather approaching, we also need to remain alert to a rouge winter storm or two in March.

Looking Forward to Another Mission

Darrell Judge, Univ. of Southern California

Our recent sounding rocket mission, flight 36.236 US launched November 7, 2006, was highly successful. All of the minimum success criteria were met or significantly exceeded.

The success of this mission was due, in large part, to the concerted efforts of the NSROC team.

Rick Nelson did an excellent job ensuring that all of the necessary equipment and gasses were available when needed in addition to arranging for a live webcast of the flight.

Bill Payne's effective coordination of materials and man power made the execution of test operations and payload logistics timely and efficient.

This mission could not have been a success without the hard work of the entire NSROC team.

Changes to On-site Institutional Services

Several new processes have been implemented to ensure NASA can meet its exploration mission vision for returning to the Moon and to Mars. NASA Headquarters has directed a reduction in Goddard's institutional budget resulting in some service reductions and eliminations. Although these cuts will cause some inconvenience to employees, none of the changes will impact safety at the Center or directly impact the Center's ability to accomplish its mission.

The following custodial changes became effective February 1:

Office trash pick-up: reduced from 3 times a week to 1 time a week.
Office cleaning: reduced from 3 times a week to 1 time a week.
Restroom cleaning: reduced from 5 times a week to 3 times a week.
Vacuuming: reduced from 3 times a week to 1 time a week.
Shampooing: reduced from 2 times a year to 1 time a year.
Floor stripping/waxing: reduced from 1 time a year to 1 time every other year.

Food related trash should be placed in the coffee mess trash cans to be collected three times a week. Employees are reminded that trash cans are available to WFF organizations through stock.

We regret the inconvenience that these changes will have to employees. These were the only options the Cost Pool members and Center Senior Staff had in trying to protect those services that are critical to carrying out our mission, critical to safety at WFF and to continue to meet our regulatory obligations.

For questions about these service changes, contact Freda.W.Johnson@nasa.gov or call x1466.

Steak Dinner

6 p.m.
February 16
Building F-3

Steak Cooked to Order, Salad
Baked Potato and Corn, Rolls and Butter, Dessert, Iced Tea/Coffee
$16. per person

Tickets may be purchased at the Rocket Club, Building F-3, after 4:30 p.m., call x1454 or at the Exchange, Building E-2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., call x2020.

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: www.wff.nasa.gov
Editor Betty Flowers
Asst. Editor Rebecca Hudson